

City of Corunna  
Regular Council Meeting  
Monday, July 1, 2002

Present: Corey, Jessen, Johnson, Mehigh, Runyan, Sanderson, Wagner.

Absent: None.

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Janet Washburn, Parks and Recreation Director; Yvonne Long, City Clerk; Shirley Sanderson; Jackie Leone, The Argus Press; Judy Horton; Gerald Klingler; Susan Groll; Jan Scott; David Stechschulte; Clark Long; Roger Rathbun; and other concerned citizens.

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chambers by Mayor Corey at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Runyan moved, Sanderson seconded to approve the minutes of the previous regular meeting as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson, Runyan, Jessen, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Johnson moved, Mehigh seconded to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of Item No. 7) Consider Extending MERS F55/20 Retirement Window 90 Days for AFSCME Unit.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Jessen, Runyan, Mehigh, Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Mehigh moved, Runyan seconded to approve the vendor disbursements as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Wagner, Jessen, Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Judy Horton advised the parks and recreation commission is taking advanced cookbook orders. The proceeds will be used to build a new pavilion in McCurdy Park. The cookbook has 250 recipes and will cost \$7.50.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT/PRE-COUNCIL DISCUSSION: Joe Sawyer reviewed his manager's report with council and with those in the audience. Mr. Sawyer advised he would like to have a brief regular council meeting before the Committee of the Whole meeting on July 29 for the purpose of awarding the local street projects. The bids are due and will be opened on July 26. Councilperson Mehigh advised there is an intergovernmental meeting scheduled for July 29 at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Corey stated the council meeting and the Committee of the Whole meeting would have to be changed. Mr. Sawyer suggested

changing the meeting time to 6:00 p.m. Mayor Corey suggested meeting on Friday, July 26 at 6:00 p.m. to go over the local street projects and leave the Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, July 29 at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION: Mayor Corey presented David Stechschulte with a proclamation in recognition for the time he has spent as a member of the Downtown Development Authority.

CONSIDER POLICE CHIEF AND CLERK CONTRACT REVIEWS: Mayor Corey advised he vetoed the police chief and clerk contracts due to a procedure error that he felt he had made when voting. He further advised he felt the police chief and clerk contracts should be considered at the same time. There was also some concern that the contracts should be reviewed by the Committee of the Whole. Mayor Corey asked council what they wanted to do with the contracts. Councilperson Jessen suggested sending the contracts back to the labor negotiation committee, to the Committee of the Whole, and then to the city council. Councilperson Mehigh stated he could support his recommendation excluding the labor committee. Since this issue got to be such turmoil, he felt the Committee of the Whole should look at the contracts. Councilperson Jessen stated the purpose of the negotiation committee is to get something to the Committee of the Whole. The council has to start someplace, but he did not understand why council does not use the negotiation committee. Councilperson Mehigh stated he would prefer meeting with the department heads at the Committee of the Whole meeting. Mayor Corey asked Councilperson Mehigh if the individual department heads should negotiate with the Committee of the Whole. Councilperson Mehigh advised he would prefer to have a rating system that the city manager could use to inform council that the department heads performed at a certain level. He further advised the city manager could then suggest to the Committee of the Whole an appropriate amount of compensation to give the department heads. This is the way it is done in most private industries. He also advised it is not fair to the employee or to the council because council is judging the employee on hearsay. The department heads work for the city manager and he knows how they performed, and their compensation should be based on what they do. Mayor Corey asked if some sort of procedure should be developed. Councilperson Mehigh advised definitely. Mayor Corey asked if this was something that should be developed by the labor committee or the Committee of the Whole. Councilperson Mehigh advised he would like to see the Committee of the Whole develop the procedure because everyone has some input. Council needs to move on with this year's contract, but he would like to see the Committee of the Whole sit down and come up with a reasonable contract. Councilperson Johnson stated it was very unfortunate what happened at the last meeting, but she agreed with Councilperson Mehigh that council needs to move on. She does not want to see what happened last time happen again. She further stated council should do the contracts at the Committee of the Whole and forget the labor committee. Councilperson Mehigh suggested negotiating the contracts at the Committee of the Whole meeting on July 29. Runyan moved, Mehigh seconded to postpone the police contract review and clerk contract review until the Committee of the Whole meeting on July 29 at 6:00 p.m.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson, Jessen, Wagner, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER SCYSHA LEASE: Councilperson Sanderson stated the Committee of the Whole discussed sending the lease back to the parks and recreation with corrections to paragraph two and nine. Councilperson Mehigh stated the Committee of the Whole has suggested changing the word “fund” in sentence two, paragraph two to “department within the Parks and Recreation Improvement Fund”, delete “for future rink improvements or maintenance of the rink and surrounding areas or joint projects agreed upon by the CITY and the SCYSHA from sentence two, paragraph two and add “Lease fees shall be used for maintenance and improvements to the rink as requested by the city manager and hockey organization” as sentence three to paragraph two. Paragraph two would read “The SCYSHA shall present to the CITY the names of their officers, board members and financial statement prior to the start of the Fall season and each year hereafter. The LEASE fee shall be \$5.00 per player, which will go in the hockey rink department within the Parks and Recreation Improvement Fund. Lease fees shall be used only for maintenance and improvements to the rink as requested by the city manager and the hockey organization. All decisions in this matter shall have the approval of the Parks and Recreation Director, City Manager, League Director and City Council.” The committee also suggested removing “the north half of the lot between the Casino and the rink” from sentence one, paragraph nine and the last two sentences of paragraph nine. Paragraph nine would read “The parking area for hockey league players will be the east end of the rink and east of Emma Drive south of the Grandstand wall.” Mehigh moved, Johnson seconded to accept the contract with the following changes to paragraph two and nine: sentence two and three in paragraph two will read “The lease shall be \$5.00 per player, which will go in the hockey rink department within the Parks and Recreation Improvement Fund. Lease fees shall be used only for maintenance and improvements to the rink as requested by the city manager and the Shiawassee County Youth Street Hockey Organization”, and paragraph nine will read “The parking area for hockey league players will be the east end of the rink and east of Emma Drive south of the Grandstand wall.”

Roll call vote:

Yes: Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner, Mehigh, Runyan, Jessen.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER WAIVING STU COUTTS FEE FOR EAGLES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION:

Sanderson moved, Johnson seconded to waive the \$125 rental fee on the Stu Coutts Pavilion for the Eagles Retirement Association on August 20, 2002 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson, Runyan, Jessen, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER 2002 SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM: Mr. Sawyer advised the city has identified and marked the worse sidewalks in town, but before letters are sent to the property owners, council approval is needed. He further advised he needed to know if the list should be cut. Mehigh moved, Sanderson seconded to instruct the city manager to send the

property owners a notice of intent to replace the sidewalk except for 595 N. Shiawassee Street and instruct the city manager to bid the projects in two separate lists.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Jessen, Runyan, Mehigh, Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

**CONSIDER EXTENDING MERS F55/20 RETIREMENT WINDOW 90 DAYS FOR AFSCME**

UNIT: Mr. Sawyer advised the original 180 day retirement window began on November 15, 2001 and expired on May 15, 2002 and extending the window would not create eligibility for any new employees. He further advised there was an employee who did not opt for the original window, but he has requested to have the window reopened. The employee is having health issues and is currently on short-term disability, and it is very unlikely that the employee will return to work. Mr. Sawyer stated the city can extend the window up to 180 days, but his recommendation would be to extend the window 90 days from May 16, 2002 until August 15, 2002. Councilperson Mehigh stated the union gave up some significant give backs to the city for the retirement window, and it was a financial plus for the city so he would personally like to see council extend the retirement window. Mr. Sawyer advised now that it is July 1, the employee will have 12 days of sick time renewed into his sick bank, which will cost the city an additional nine days of sick leave payout. Mehigh moved, Sanderson seconded to extend the MERS F55/20 retirement window for the AFSCME Local for a period of 90 days commencing 05-16-02 and terminating 08-15-02.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Wagner, Jessen, Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson.

No: None.

**CALL TO AUDIENCE:** Jan Scott asked council to help build the park pavilion by purchasing a cookbook.

Gerald Klingler advised he has been out of town for two weeks and wanted to know how he could be sworn in. Mr. Sawyer advised the deputy clerk could swear him in after the council meeting.

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION:** Councilperson Johnson advised the ambulance service operations manager would like to give a 10-minute report to the city council. Councilperson Mehigh stated he did not have a problem with the operations manager giving a report, but the operations manager should get approval from the ambulance board first because there is a policy that any communications should go through the ambulance board.

Mayor Corey asked council if they would like to see the minutes cut down. He has the ability to cut down the minutes, but he does not want to cut them down if council wants all of the verbiage. Councilperson Mehigh stated he did not have a problem with cutting down the minutes as long as they do not lose the intent. Mayor Corey stated if there is a complicated issue then a few sentences might need to be included in an effort to see how council got there. Councilperson Johnson stated the minutes helped her figure out what happened at the meeting she missed while she was on vacation so she would not like to see the minutes cut down. Mr. Sawyer advised the council would have the option of listening to the tape if they had any questions. Councilperson Runyan asked if the tape of the meeting

would override the minutes that are typed and sent to the paper. Mr. Sawyer advised no because when the minutes are approved at the next meeting, the tape is erased. Mayor Corey stated if a councilperson was not at the meeting and wanted to know what was going on, the councilperson would have the opportunity to listen to the tape. Mr. Sawyer advised this is an issue that he stayed out of because by charter this is one area where the city clerk works directly for the council. Councilperson Runyan stated the charter gives the mayor the right to edit the minutes. Mayor Corey agreed but stated he does not feel comfortable about editing the minutes if council does not want them edited. He stated as long as the tape is available for council to listen to until the minutes are approved, then council should stick with the short version. Mr. Sawyer suggested contacting other cities in the area to see what they do with their minutes before any drastic changes are made.

ADJOURN: Mehig moved, Sanderson seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehig, Johnson, Jessen, Wagner, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 8:28 p.m.

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STEPHEN COREY, MAYOR

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LINDA M. LeCUREUX, DEPUTY CLERK